

In the Claims:

OK 1. [Currently Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space, wherein the antimicrobial source comprises an aperture into the first space from outside of the container whereby antimicrobial fluids in [an] a space around the container may diffuse into the first space through the aperture;

a flow restriction between the first space and the second space; and

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space.

2. [Cancelled]

3. [Previously Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space wherein the antimicrobial source comprises a supply of antimicrobial fluid within the first space; and

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space.

4. [Original] A system according to claim 1 wherein the container is impermeable to microorganisms.

OK 5. [Previously Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

a flow restriction between the first space and the second space;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space; and

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space.

6. [Original] A system according to claim 1 wherein the second space is detachable from the first space.

7. [Original] A system according to claim 1 wherein the container comprises a pouch.

8. [Original] A system according to claim 1 wherein the indicator comprises a biological indicator.

9. [Original] A system according to claim 1 wherein the indicator comprises a chemical indicator.

10. [Original] A system according to claim 9 wherein the container comprises a pouch and wherein the chemical indicator is printed on the pouch inside the second space.

OK 11. [Previously Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

the first space being divided into two or more subspaces connected in series between the source of antimicrobial fluid and the second space;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space; and

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space.

OK 12. [Original] A system according to claim 11 wherein at least a portion of the subspaces are detachable from the container.

OK 13. [Previously Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space wherein the antimicrobial fluid comprises hydrogen peroxide; and

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space.

OK 14. [Previously Amended] A system for monitoring a sterilization or disinfection process comprising:

a container defining a first space and a second space, the first space and second space being in fluid communication with each other;

the first space being adapted to contain one or more articles to be sterilized or disinfected;

the second space having therein at least one indicator for indicating at least one parameter relevant to the sterilization or disinfection process;

an antimicrobial source for providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space;

wherein the second space is in fluid communication with the antimicrobial source only through the first space; and

further comprising a fan adapted to assist flow through the container from the source of antimicrobial fluid to the second space.

15. [Previously amended] A method for monitoring a disinfection or sterilization procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a container having a first space and a second space in fluid communication with each other;

placing an article to be disinfected or sterilized into the first space;

placing at least one indicator into the second space;

providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space by flowing the antimicrobial agent from an area outside and around the container into the first space through an aperture in the container; and

flowing said antimicrobial agent to the second space only from the first space and reading a relevant function of the disinfection or sterilization procedure with the indicator.

16. [Original] A method according to claim 15 wherein the indicator is a biological indicator and the relevant function is the overall efficacy of the disinfection or sterilization procedure.

17. [Original] A method according to claim 15 wherein the indicator is a chemical indicator and the relevant function is the presence of the antimicrobial agent.

18. [Previously Presented] A method for monitoring a disinfection or sterilization procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a container having a first space and a second space in fluid communication with each other;

placing an article to be disinfected or sterilized into the first space;

placing at least one indicator into the second space;

providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space;

flowing said antimicrobial agent to the second space only from the first space and reading a relevant function of the disinfection or sterilization procedure with the indicator; and

wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises hydrogen peroxide.

19. [Original] A method according to claim 18 wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises hydrogen peroxide vapor.

20. [Previously Presented] A method for monitoring a disinfection or sterilization procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a container having a first space and a second space in fluid communication with each other;

placing an article to be disinfected or sterilized into the first space;

placing at least one indicator into the second space;

providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space;

flowing said antimicrobial agent to the second space only from the first space and reading a relevant function of the disinfection or sterilization procedure with the indicator; and

further comprising the step of assisting the flow of the antimicrobial agent through the first space and to the second space with a fan.

oK 21. [Previously Presented] A method for monitoring a disinfection or sterilization procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a container having a first space and a second space in fluid communication with each other;

placing an article to be disinfected or sterilized into the first space;

placing at least one indicator into the second space;

providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space;

flowing said antimicrobial agent to the second space only from the first space and reading a relevant function of the disinfection or sterilization procedure with the indicator; and further comprising the step of recirculating the antimicrobial agent back to the first space from the second space.

22. [Original] A method according to claim 15 and further comprising the step of detaching the second space from the first space.

23. [Previously Presented] A method for monitoring a disinfection or sterilization procedure comprising the steps of:

providing a container having a first space and a second space in fluid communication with each other;

placing an article to be disinfected or sterilized into the first space;

placing at least one indicator into the second space;

providing an antimicrobial agent to the first space;

flowing said antimicrobial agent to the second space only from the first space and reading a relevant function of the disinfection or sterilization procedure with the indicator; and

wherein the container is a pouch and further comprising the step of sealing the first space from the second space after flowing the antimicrobial agent into the second space and then removing the indicator from the second space.

24. [Original] A method according to claim 23 wherein the step of sealing the first space from the second space comprises heat sealing a portion of the pouch between the first space and the second space.

25. [Previously Presented] A system according to claim 1 and further comprising a flow restriction between the first space and the second space.

26. [Previously Presented] A system according to claim 1 wherein the first space is divided into two or more subspaces connected in series between the source of antimicrobial fluid and the second space.

27. [Previously Presented] A system according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial fluid comprises hydrogen peroxide.

28. [Previously Presented] A system according to claim 1 and further comprising a fan adapted to assist flow through the container from the source of antimicrobial fluid to the second space.

29. [Previously Presented] A method according to claim 15 wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises hydrogen peroxide.

30. [Previously Presented] A method according to claim 29 wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises hydrogen peroxide vapor.

31. [Previously Presented] A method according to claim 15 wherein the container is a pouch and further comprising the step of sealing the first space from the second space after flowing the antimicrobial agent into the second space and then removing the indicator from the second space.

32. [Previously Presented] A method according to claim 31 wherein the step of sealing the first space from the second space comprises heat sealing a portion of the pouch between the first space and the second space.